

BENT RIM BUGLE

FOLLOW THESE TRACKS INSIDE TO
MOUNTAIN BIKING FUN AND INFO!



The 1999 MMBA Annual Meeting MMBA CPS and Volunteer Awards

Pictured (top) Todd Scott 1999 MMBA Annual Meeting Volunteer of the Year / (bottom) **Blizzard Blaster Fun Ride** featuring the 1999 MMBA Annual Meeting Guest Speaker Executive Director of IMBA, Tim Blumenthal. (Photos by Lisa Lazaroff and Dan Harrison respectively)

(continued on page 4 inside)



1999 MMBA CHAMPIONSHIP POINT SERIES*

4-18-99 YANKEE SPRINGS TIME TRIAL TRAIL BENEFIT

Yankee Springs Recreation Area /
Tailwind Enterprises (248) 634-6178
FEE: \$20 Pre-register / Day of \$25 Reg: 8:00-9:30am
START: 10:00am /KIDS RACE: Free / 12:00pm

5-02-99 FORT CUSTER STAMPEDE TRAIL BENEFIT

Augusta, MI / Mike Needham (616) 731-4078
FEE: \$20 Pre-register / Day of \$25 Reg: 8:00am to
1/2 hr before start/ START: Exp 10am / Sport 1:00pm /
Beg 3:30 pm /KIDS RACE: Free / 2:00pm

5-16-99 ADDISON OAKS CROSS COUNTRY
Leonard /Addison Oaks County Park (810) 858-4647
FEE: \$20 Pre-register / Day of \$25 Reg: 9:00am to 1/2
hr before start/ START: Beg 11:00am; Exp/Sport 1:30pm
/KIDS RACE: Free /10:00am

6-20-99 RUBY CROSS COUNTRY
Tailwind Enterprises (248) 634-6178
FEE: \$20 Pre-register / Day of \$25 Reg: 8:00-9:30am
START: 10:00am; Sport 12:30; Beg 2:45 /KIDS RACE:
Free / 12:00pm

7-18-99 PONTIAC LAKE CROSS COUNTRY TRAIL BENEFIT

Waterford / Tailwind Enterprises (248) 634-6178 FEE:
\$20 Pre-register / Day of \$25 Reg: 8:00 to 1/2 hr before
start / START: Exp 10am; Sport 12:30; Beg 2:45 /KIDS
RACE: Free / 12:00pm

8-08-99 BLOOMER CROSS COUNTRY
Rochester Hills / Tailwind Enterprises (248) 634-6178
FEE: \$20 Pre-register / Day of \$25 Reg: 8:00 to 1/2 hr
before start / START: Exp 10am; Sport 12:30; Beg 2:45 /
KIDS RACE: Free / 2:30pm

8-15-99 BIG - M CROSS COUNTRY
Manistee / Piranha Productions (248) 922-0018
FEE: \$20 Pre-register / Day of \$25 Reg: 8:00am to 1/2
hr before start / START: Exp 10am / Sport 12:30pm / Beg
2:45pm /KIDS RACE: Free / 2:00pm

8-29-99 PONTIAC LAKE TIME TRIAL TRAIL BENEFIT

Port Huron /Tailwind Enterprises (248)634-6178 FEE:
\$20 Pre-register / Day of \$25 Reg: 8:00 to 1/2 hr before
start / START: 10:00am /KIDS RACE: Free /12:00pm

9-12-99 STONEY CREEK CROSS COUNTRY
Tailwind Enterprises (248) 634-6178
FEE: \$20 Pre-register / Day of \$25 REG: 8:00-9:30am
START: 10:00am /KIDS RACE: Free /12:00pm

9-19-99 ADDISON OAKS CROSS COUNTRY
Leonard /Addison Oaks County Park (248) 858-0916
FEE: \$20 Pre-register / Day of \$25 Reg: 9:00am to 1/2 hr
before start / START: Beg 11:00am; Exp/Sport 1:30pm
KIDS RACE: Free / 10:00am

**10-17-98 GARLAND HAMMER
CROSS COUNTRY**
Lewiston / Garland Resort / Larry Kinney (517) 786-
2211 ext. 1313 / (800) 968-0042 FEE: \$25 Pre-register /
\$30 Day of Reg: 8:00am to 1/2 hr. before start / START
TBA : KIDS RACE: \$5.00 Gourmet meal included for
all paid Adult and Kids Race entrants.

10-24-98 CANNONSBURG CHALLENGE
Cannonburg Ski Area / Grand Rapids / Fun Promotions
(616)453-4245 FEE: \$20 Pre-register / Day of \$25 Reg:
8:00 to 1/2 hr before start/ START: Exp 10am / Sport
12:30pm / Beg 2:45 /KIDS RACE: 2:00pm

*Always check with promoter for information, current start times, race applications, pre-register dates and date of events. See MMBA Championship Points Series Rules for eligibility (Feb 99). You do not have to be an MMBA member to ride in any of the races listed, but it is highly recommended. However, membership/race fee is required to be tabulated in the points series. All dates on public properties are subject to land manager considerations and it is up to the rider to make sure that times and dates are current and correct. Pre-registration dates are determined by individual promoters and it is up to the rider to obtain current and correct pre-registration dates from each promoter. It is highly recommended that you renew your membership in the MMBA and pay the \$5.00 tabulation fee prior to the first race you want to count in the MMBA/CPS regardless of when your current membership expires.

DIRTSTOCK



'99



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REGISTRATION (limited to first 1000 - no day-of registration)

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____

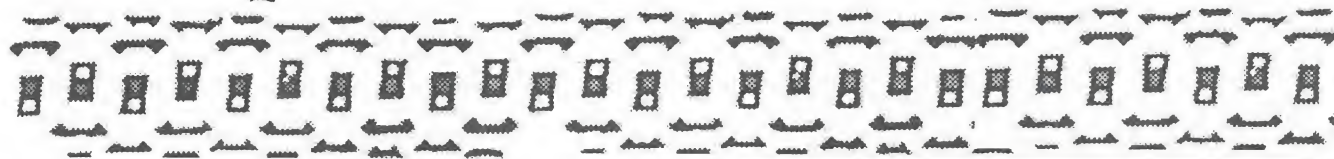
Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Number in Party: _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

MAIL TO: DIRTSTOCK - 601 SOUTH SHORE DR. #121 - BATTLE CREEK, MI 49015

Email Questions to: glallen@net-link.net

Respect The Sweat



Again for 1998, MMBA volunteers stepped up to the plate and met the needs of the public trails throughout Michigan. Pictured here are some of the volunteer members who were at the 1999 MMBA Annual Meeting. Trail care dates for this year can be found in your 1999 MMBA Handbook (Thank you Doni Fall and Lisa Lazaroff for this year's handbook). You can also contact your local chapter president for more info on the trail care dates.

Volunteered Hours:

Southeast	733
Potawatomi	458
Pontiac Lake	434
Northeast	42
Holly/Flint	947
Northern	318
Western	1000
Mid-State	549
Southwest (not available at this printing)	
Total Volunteer Hours	4,481

Thank You
Western
Chapter



(photos on page 5&6
by Lisa Lazaroff)

Thank you
Pontiac Lake
Chapter



Thank You
Potawatomi
Chapter



Thank You
Southeast
Chapter



Thank You
Southeast
Chapter



No Picture Available: Thank You Mid-State Holly Flint
Norhtern and Northeast Chapters!



Thank You To All The Racers In
The 1998 MMBA *Champion-
ship Points Series!!

Not only did you also put in
the sweat and commitment to
train and do your best in the wide
variety of races that were on the
MMBA *CPS schedule for 1998,
your racing helped the MMBA
raise funds for trail care and
development after race day. In
1998, MMBA CPS racers saw a
record year of participation and
involvement in the widest variety
of race courses possible in Michi-
gan. Pictured below are the top
winners of the 1998 CPS and if
space allowed we'd picture
everyone who joined in on the
fun of racing the MMBA CPS
which ultimately means better
trails for everyone who loves to
ride!



Elite Men
Gold Don Cameron
Silver Curtis Johnson
Bronze Jeff Weinert

Congratulations

(continued from front page.)

Expert Woman
Gold Shelly Wilson
Silver Karey Collins
Bronze Jody Koch

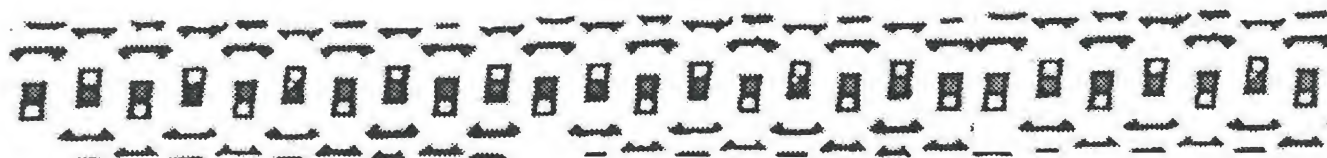


Congratulations

The 1999 MMBA Annual Meeting & MMBA CPS and Volunteer Awards

The day started with the traditional
Blizzard Blaster Fun Ride with our
guest speaker, **Tim Blumenthal** from
**IMBA (International Mountain
Biking Association)**. True to
Michigan's weather form, the 9:00 hour
saw overcast skies and cold weather,
making the sections of trail where the
snow had melted the day before and
then refroze, as good as an ice-skating
rink. The leaders of the ride opted to
mix in a little gravel road and paved
path at Indian Springs Metro Park to the
ride and leave the skating to the
Redwings. Everyone enjoyed the
adventure and wouldn't you know it,
the "blizzard" got there later that day

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BENT RIM BUGLE

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Christina-as always thank you

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Dave Lakatos/Dan Clark/Dwain

Music

Fastball-Out of My Head

Tim Chesla-Trail of Tears

Materials Provided By

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This mag. is printed on recycled paper

"...covered in tree tops, covered in birds who
can sing a million songs without any words..."

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Bent Rim Bugle Publishing Info

The Bent Rim Bugle (BRB) (established in 1986 by Craig Stutzky, Bonnie Alsum and Steve Pruett) comes out 4 times a year around spring, summer, fall and winter. Dwain Abramowski took over production in the early 1990's with a focus on behalf of the needs of the MMBA. The BRB has become a source for news and information for the Michigan Mountain Biking Association (MMBA).

Articles come from MMBA members, MMBA Chapter Presidents, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and other sources. The focus of the BRB is on what is of interest to MMBA members as well as education on environmental issues, land access, mountain biking events, rides, competition, other activities and information related to mountain biking and the outdoors, but most of all just info & fun, fun, fun.

Editorial contributions and photos are welcomed but cannot be returned unless accompanied by proper postage. Send contributions to: MMBA/BRB P.O. Box 29 Belmont, MI 49306. The BRB also can provide classified ads to MMBA members for free and advertising space to shops and manufacture members at reduced rates. For deadlines and rates contact the address/email/web site above or call, 616.785.0120.

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the MMBA, Publisher, DNR, Forest Service, MMBA members, dealers and/or sponsors. Copyright, Mar. 1999, all rights reserved...including but not limited to all etc....it's all there just under the surface....

(photo by Lisa Lazaroff)



Guest Speaker **Tim Blumenthal** shares in the Celebration of the MMBA's success for 98 and IMBA success around the country.

(Meeting continued)

with about 6+ inches of snow! Who knows what the weather will be like in 2000, but hope to see you there.

The **MMBA Annual Bike Swap area opened to a full crowd of buyers and sellers.** If you couldn't find what you wanted at a good price at this swap, you might not be able to find it anywhere. There were MMBA shirts, hats and MMBA vests on sale also. Your MMBA board is looking to make next years swap even better with more advertising and notices to the general public. Increasing your chances of finding, selling or trading for the bike or bike part you need, so you can enjoy the trail even more. The MMBA Bike Swap 2000 it will be a millennium event!

This year's guest speaker was the Executive Director of the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA), Tim Blumenthal. IMBA and the MMBA started their advocacy efforts at about the same time. Both have grown into leaders in forest management activities regarding mountain bike trails and have had a positive effect on the forest resources and supervision strategies needed to sustain them into the next century. Tim covered topics of membership development, industry sponsors, program development and the role that each forest and trail user plays in maintaining the health and uniqueness of our forest resources. Tim highlighted some of our biggest challenges in sharing the trail with vastly more trail-users while preserving the forest's integrity as a diverse and solitary sanctuary for the individual who seeks to enter the forest on a trail.

Tim also stated that the most important resource of any organization is its members. Tim praised the MMBA as one of the leaders in membership and membership activities that have shaped how things are done not only in Michigan, but around the country. **Thank you, Tim and IMBA for your support of the MMBA!**

The 1999 MMBA Annual Meeting also saw a few business items on the agenda. Most notable on the afternoon meeting agenda was notification of the general membership of new bylaws that were adopted at the MMBA board meeting the day before the Annual Meeting. With the new bylaws in place the MMBA general membership had the honor and duty of voting and picking four MMBA Directors to the State Board of Directors (9 - one for each chapter) for a total of 13 board members. The directors voted in were Robin Scurr, Tom Nell, Jason Jones and Dwain Abramowski. The new bylaws have made the MMBA more compliant with the changes in Michigan law since the founding of the MMBA. There are more opportunities than ever to get involved in the dynamic future of the MMBA.

The MMBA Championship Point Series Awards (CPS) was another highlight of this year's 1999 MMBA Annual Meeting. MMBA CPS has seen many changes this year: some good and some not so good. The MMBA had some volunteer personnel changes this year and some considerable pledged monies from major bicycle industry sponsors went unfulfilled. **Trek USA was the only bike industry sponsor of the MMBA that came through with a**

(Meeting continued next page)



(photo by Lisa Lazaroff)

Tom Nell (pictured on left) receives an honorary Service Award from the MMBA for his 10 years as treasurer of the organization. **Gordon Allen** (not pictured) also receive an Honorary Service Award for his development of the MMBA Championship Points Series in the Mid 1990's. Thank you both from all the members of the MMBA!

fulfilled pledge of dollars. This enabled the MMBA in partially meeting its obligations to many programs. The MMBA is responsible for meeting the needs of the the MMBA membership, land mangers, racers and volunteers. All total there were five bicycle industry "supporters" that assured the MMBA of their assistance. **The MMBA salutes Trek** for their continued leadership in sponsorship of a grass-roots organizations (the MMBA) that keeps mountain biking strong in Michigan. **Also taking up the slack where the industry let down mountain bikers in Michigan, were Denny's Schwinn of Lansing and Team Active of Battle Creek**, both shops helped with a donations to the MMBA at the benefactor level of support. These commitments of support helped keep the MMBA from treacherous financial terrain for the moment.

Tim Blumenthal
1999 MMBA Annual Meeting and Awards Celebration Guest Speaker joins MMBA members for the annual **Bizzard Blaster Fun Ride!**



(photo by Dan Harrison)

Thank you, Springfield Oaks/Oakland County Parks, the Pontiac Lake Chapter of the MMBA and Tailwinds Enterprises for hosting the 1998 MMBA Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony.



Dennis Hansen shares info on the chapter activities and trail care of the Mid-State Chapter of the MMBA

(photo by Lisa Lazaroff)

The Wheel of Fortune was spinning in favor of many who visited the **Southeast Chapter Booth** at the 1999 MMBA Annual Meeting. You didn't even have to buy a vowel to win!



(photo by Lisa Lazaroff)

With these consequent looming budget constraints, the MMBA felt it might be in the best interest of all, to get creative in awarding the best of the best in the MMBA Championship Point Series. After talking to a number of long time riders, the option of a custom designed, "one of kind" Bike Messenger Bag was decided upon to celebrate the riders in the MMBA CPS. **The bags were custom designed by TimBuk2.** A large bag with a gold stripe and CPS logo for first place, a smaller bag with a silver stripe and logo for second and finally a smaller bronze striped bag and logo for third.

This year all points series participants also came up on stage and were welcomed to take their place on a podium and their pictures were taken as they received their awards to a very supportive crowd of well over 250

(Meeting continued next page)

**Winner of the
Dirt Rag
Clydesdale Sport
Class of the 1998
MMBA-CPS
Ron Schuitema**

(photo by Lisa Lazaroff)



people. The pictures will be made available to each of the racers and used in media and sponsorship programs throughout the year. The Volunteer who took all the pictures was none other than **Lisa Lazaroff**, and you know she is one of the best at what she does with the camera. Thanks Lisa.

This year our very, very energetic MMBA CPS committee and new Director, **Joseph Yannie** will be implementing a racer survey program at MMBA CPS selected events around the state to make sure we give the promoters information that they need to better serve you and for the MMBA to work even more toward celebrating the efforts of our racers. The TimBuk2 bags were hailed by some as a being a refreshing change from the numerous plaques and trophies and awards that sometimes hang on the wall to something that could hang around the winners necks for all to see. On the other hand, some people were looking for their first trophies and were happy with the celebration, but wished they could have bagged a trophy and not bagged a bag, cool as it was. The CPS committee is looking into the issue and you can be rest assured that those on the committee will take all concerns very seriously and some options are being considered for both 1998 and 1999. There is no doubt in anyone's mind that next year's awards will be to virtually everyone's liking.

To everyone's delight, all CPS participants this year received the first ever "**MMBA CPS Participation Pin**", in recognition of their involvement with the MMBA CPS. Not everyone gets to stand on the podium, but the MMBA CPS is a success because of all who participate. Each year we hope to award a pin to all those who race throughout

the year (5 races minimum/MMBA member). This year was a first for the Clydesdale Class also, which was sponsored by **Dirt Rag Magazine**. The winners of this new group of trail racers got jerseys, hats and socks with the Dirt Rag Logo on it. Ride heavy, ride fast...especially on the downhill!

The Volunteer of the Year Awards, First Across The Finish Line (FAFL 10 hours of trail care at the chapter level), saw over 4,300 hours of trail care celebrated at the MMBA Annual Meeting. Custom embroidered hats and socks went to each volunteer member. Each Chapter Volunteer of the Year received a cool custom designed jersey and all the Volunteers of the Year Awards and FAFL Awards were supplied by **Armadillo Custom Printing**. Thank you Armadillo. It only takes 10 hours to join the volunteers at the annual meeting and stand out in the crowd, hope to see you there next year.

Our Statewide Volunteer of the Year was none other than **Todd Scott**! This guy might be in the running for volunteer of the century. Todd was introduced to the crowd by last year's splendid State Volunteer of the Year, **Doni Fall**. I could try for a dozen years and not share with you the enthusiasm and list of credits that Doni shared with the membership about Todd. Todd was involved with everything from trying to save open-space at Oakland County University, where they are in the process of putting up another golf course and attending community rail-trail and

park development meetings. Todd can be found taking care of the MMBA list-serve on the net, running the Southeast Chapter of the MMBA and more. He also is a world class mountain biker and just returned from Alaska after placing in the top 10 in the classic winter mountain bike race, which is called the "Ididasport". Todd trains for events and goes beyond the call of duty for the MMBA, all while holding a job that, to most of us, is much like rocket science in the computer world. He does a ton of volunteer work, while being a great guy to hang out with - can there be more? You bet there is, just ask Doni or anyone from the Southeast Chapter of the MMBA. As State Volunteer of the year, Todd got a free trip to **Heart Lake Resort** near Gaylord, for three days this riding season, a cool IMBA/RockShox trail care tool and a bunch of other swag. Thank you Todd!!

Two special Long-time Service Awards were also handed out to **Tom Nell** the MMBA Treasurer and **Gordon Allen** former MMBA CPS Director. Tom took in the very first dollar on your behalf to keep the trails open when many of you were not even riding mountain bikes and has worked miracles in stretching that dollar to the most to meet an impossible budget. Thanks Tom! Gordon Allen built the MMBA CPS to a new level of excellence. Gordon attended virtually every race during the years he was the CPS Director and was responsible for securing funding for the CPS and the MMBA which improved our ability to meet the diverse needs of the organization. These two individuals who worked (Tom is still treasurer) steadfastly for the MMBA for many years, enabled the MMBA to empower dozens of other volunteers to do the work of the trail. Thank you both!

This year's sponsor of the **MMBA Annual Meeting** was **Gary Fisher Bikes**. A cool aluminum 3.2lb frame was raffled off at the meeting and Amy Costello of the Holly-Flint Chapter had the lucky ticket. Dozens of other winning ticket holders were at the meeting also and secured a lot of cool swag. **Tailwinds Enterprises** put on roller races to benefit the MMBA again this year, and the DNR, Oakland Country Parks, Grand Island, The League of Michigan Bicyclists and many others had booths set up at the annual meeting too.

(Meeting continued next page)

Thanks to the hundreds of people who attended the 1999 Annual Meeting. It was one of the best ever. **Thank you Oakland Parks and Recreation for providing the facility.** Thank you, 1999 MMBA Annual Meeting sponsors: **Gary Fisher, Heart Lake Resort of Gaylord, Dirt Rag Magazine, the International Mountain Biking Association, Armadillo Custom Printing, Tailwinds Enterprises, The Chicago Area Bike Dealers Association (CABDA), NEMBA (New England Mountain Biking Association for their financial support of MMBA programs), Quality Bicycle Products,** and the many others (remind me if I forgot you!!!) who made this year's annual meeting possible. **Also, thank you, Pontiac Lake Chapter Volunteers who set up and took down the meeting this year.**

It should be noted that nothing in the MMBA is done without thousands of hours of volunteer work aside from the work done on the trails. **Jason Jones, our MMBA president,** has given more time and effort to making this organization what it is today than virtually any other MMBA president of the MMBA in a long time. From getting his hands dirty on the Poto at a trail maintenance day to working with our pro bono attorney for the MMBA, **James Partridge** to redo the MMBA

by laws (as fun as watching peanut-butter on toast). **James Partridge** also wrote and rewrote the bylaws more times than one should do any task like that and will still be tweaking them at bylaw committee meetings in the future. The 1999 Handbooks were done by **Lisa Lazaroff and Doni Fall** and are the envy of advocacy groups everywhere, full of great info and a way cool designs (hundreds of hours put in on the handbook).

Your **MMBA CPS Committee** has been meeting every month now since last summer (dozens of hours+ in all), to prepare for the 1999 MMBA Championship Points Series and **Joseph Yannie** has stepped in to continue in the big shoes of Gordon Allen and Dave Lakatos from years past. The list goes on, at your chapter level, sending out newsletters and postcards, making phone calls stopping at the printers, arranging for work days and more. It all adds up to thousands of hours.

Is everything done right all the time? No, not even everything we do as individuals is that perfect.

But, it all boils down to this: on some sunny day this spring you'll pull up to your favorite trail head, grab your bike off your car, clip in and ride down a trail in a quiet swoosh of speed and the birds will

sing and your tires will hum softly about how great it is to ride on the trail. As if it was always like that. As if it will always be like that. As if nothing ever happens otherwise or took place before you got there at the trail-head. But it does and it did. The 1999 Annual Meeting is proof. If you were not there you'll have to take these words for it. Anything and everything that is mountain biking on public lands in Michigan was in celebration at the 1999 MMBA Annual Meeting. You best remember it, acknowledge it, and contribute to it in any way you can, because it (the MMBA) is about you if you are about mountain biking.

Only you can make it happen better than the best it's been. See you there next year, it will be even better if you join us!

Thank you
Timbuk2 Designs
for helping with
this years
MMBA CPS
Awards.



RACE PHOTOS

Now booking team
photos for the
1999 season.

See you at the races!!!

Lisa Lazaroff (517) 782-9093
LOONSONG@VOYAGER.NET



Bikes on Ice

By Jason Aric Jones

International Ice II: Different Strokes for Different Folks

Lets face it. Mountain biking in the Midwest usually doesn't get its props*** from national mountain bike publications. Our unique trails and the riding opportunities they present are often overlooked by California based Executive Editors that are too busy wetting themselves over a bunch of man-made chute-n'-ladder trails in Vancouver's North Shore. To add insult to injury, some of these Editors also like to take aim at us as cyclists, calling us "pasty white cheeseburger chomp'in' Midwesterners" that get fat in the winter from lack of riding. If only these hoity-toity Editors could have been on Drummond Island March 6th for the Second Annual International Ice Race. All their preconceived notions of a bland Midwestern mountain biking scene with a bunch of out-of-shape winter riders would have been shattered.

Nothing about the International Ice event is really normal. First you have the venue, Drummond Island, a small island in the Eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan that you can only get to by car ferry. Then you have the course, a 24 mile death march across windswept frozen tundra that, during warmer seasons, is the Saint Mary's River. Oh yeah, then there are the riders, 36 people so in love with riding, that not even the harshest of conditions can keep them on the sofa.

How harsh are the race conditions? Well, the temperature at the start of the race was about 10 degrees, with a head wind of 10 to 20 mph out of the east-northeast just to make sure riders didn't get too comfortable. My wife, graciously attending to watch me race, got windburn on her face just from waiting at the shoreline start/finish line.

It sounds simple enough in theory. Just pedal 11 miles on a flat course over to Canada, and back again. Heck, if we get in a draft busting pace line, we should be back in around an hour or hour and a half tops. Almost two and a half hours later, I knew better.

Have you ever biked on a sandy trail? If so, you know how sand tugs your bike in all directions, causing you to "power stroke" over-and-over just to keep your momentum. If so, you know how the inability to maintain a normal riding cadence caused by this type of riding can rob your legs of all their power, making you go anaerobic in what seems like 30 seconds. Have you ever biked on frozen, icy ruts? If so, you know how it is to have your bike "channeled" in a direction you don't want to go. You also probably know what it feels like to tenuously pop in-and-out of these icy channels, praying that the bike will not lose traction and kick you out moto-style to the frozen ground in about a nanosecond. If you have ever ridden in conditions such as these - then you know what it is like to race in International Ice.

Some riders know better than others what it is like to ride in such conditions; riders like Todd Scott, a two-time finisher of Alaska's Iditasport Race, and first time International Ice participant. I don't think the conditions phased Todd that much though. I watched him pull out in front of the pack at the start and slowly become a spec on my horizon as the race progressed.

In fact, I don't know if the race conditions really bothered anyone that much. Sure, there was the discomfort of those globs of Vaseline on our faces to protect us from the wind. There was also some additional time involved to wrap my shoes with duck tape so my toes wouldn't fall off. But these inconveniences seemed really minor once the race was done. This is probably because I was just glad to be out riding in such a beautiful place during the middle of another glorious Midwestern winter. Or, maybe it is because now I can laugh the next time some namby-pamby California sunshine boy disses the Midwest as a haven for the weak and the mild.

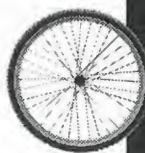
(For more information on International Ice, contact Steve Brown of Iceman Promotions at sbrown@freeway.net, or, 616-922-5926. For more information on Drummond Island accommodations, contact Dan Sirrine at the Woodmoor Resort, 800-999-6343.)

***ed: Exept for VeloNews
Volume 28 Number 3
and
the article
"Michigan Rules".
Hey, VeloNews Rules!!!!

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wouldn't
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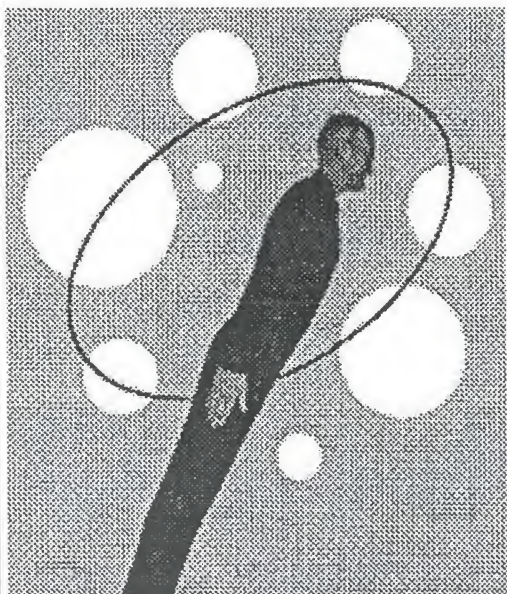
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The 1999 Michigan Mountain Biking Association Annual

Meeting Frame winner is Amy Costello of the Holly Flint Chapter of the MMBA. Congratulations Amy! Thank you all who helped make this year's meeting a success and much gratitude goes to Fisher Bikes for the donation of the frame!



GARY FISHER



Brett Weiler, Fisher Representative hands Amy Costello the winning frame (Photo by Lisa Lazaroff)



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Special thanks goes out to Trek USA and CABDA (Chicago Area Bicycle Dealers Association) for their support of the MMBA. Due to challenging circumstances beyond the MMBA's control the MMBA budget for 1998 was facing a shortfall. Due to the generous and charitable action of TREK USA, CABDA, MMBA budget cuts and those MMBA members who responded to the Trails For Tomorrow Challenge, the MMBA was able to finish its fiscal year without seeing red. New approaches to marketing, programs and diligent commitments of the MMBA board hope to avoid this type of problem in 1999. As always you can help, just contact us at 616-785-0120.

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MMBA President Jason Aric Jones shares MMBA info at 1999 annual meeting.

MDNR To Review Recreation Area Trail Planning: Could you lose your trail?

By Jason Aric Jones
MMBA President

Do you ride in a Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Recreation Area? If so, 1999 is NOT the time to become complacent about 1.) your MMBA Membership, or, 2.) your participation in the MMBA advocacy effort. Why? On December 22, 1998, MDNR Parks and Recreation Division issued a Trails Directive (#1998-35) regarding any new trail development. The Trails Directive states that NO new trails will be considered until the Division develops an overall Trails Plan. The Trails Plan is currently under development, with a product completion date scheduled for later this year.

How will the Plan be developed? An outside consulting firm will be hired to facilitate the Plan development. Their goals will be threefold: 1.) to collect information on what trails currently exist at Recreation Areas; 2.) to pick the brains of various user groups to find out who uses the trails, how many folks use them, and what user specific planning needs exist; and 3.) to hold three public meetings regarding trails and their usage.

Why is MDNR Parks and Rec Division doing this? To quote one DNR insider, "Parks and Rec has let friends

groups dictate how trail planning has developed, and this is just no way to do business." (Note: Friends groups are groups like the MMBA that act as partners to help the DNR maintain and create trails.) Essentially, over the past couple years, the folks in Lansing have kind of discovered what many of their local land managers already knew - day trail users represent a huge portion of their business. To this end, I believe that we in the MMBA have to give the folks in Lansing their props for coming to the realization that there is life in Michigan public lands other than the fin and feather crowd (i.e. hunters and fishers).

What does this mean for Michigan Recreation Area mountain bikers? This is it, folks! The "Big Enchilada", so to speak. Most of Michigan's heavily used trails are in MDNR Recreation Areas: Poto, Pontiac Lake, Highland, Pontiac Lake, Yankee Springs, Fort Custer, Island Lake, Brighton, Ionia, Holdridge, Bald Mountain.....getting the picture? WE SHOW UP, OR, WE WILL LOSE!

YOU SHOW UP, OR, YOU WILL LOSE!

What is the MMBA's plan to ensure we don't lose trail, or, never get any new trail? Executive Director Dwain Abramowski and myself will be maintaining contact with Parks and Rec regarding the steps in this process. We will be representing the needs of Michigan mountain bikers to the consultants at various meetings. What do you need to do?

1.) Help increase our membership. The more names we have on our membership roster, the more we are recognized as a stakeholder in our public lands management. We all know that if everyone that rode Michigan's trails joined the MMBA, our membership would quadruple. Now is the time for that to happen.

2.) Show up — at meetings, via phone, and via letter. If the word comes out to write the consultant group, or, show up at a meeting - no excuses - unless a leave day from work, or, a two hour's drive to a meeting is NOT worth keeping your trail open.

3.) Create a buzz. Start telling people about what is going on with this Planning. Tell your friend, your grandma, and your dog. Tell 'em to join the MMBA, and show up. If they start making excuses, ask 'em if any excuse is more important than losing their trail; 'cuz that's what it comes down to.



Winners, go to Paul Gruber, Ed Berta, Rick Jerrell, Bob Climie, Jeff Feldmeyer, Randy Estes, Jennifer Berta, Lauren Berta, Jane Hale, Mark Sibel, Jim Beers, Amy Costello, Ken Foss, Ryan Jerrell, Brian Moe, Joel

Holly/Flint Chapter

By Ric Jerrell

Congratulations to Kirk Costello...Kirk is the 1998 "Chapter Volunteer of the Year." He is a Chapter Past President, a Chapter Co-Founder and was the 1995 NTD Vibram Volunteer of the Year, for Michigan. The Chapter and Holdridge Lakes, Thanks You! Other volunteer awards for FAFL

Schneider, Mike Weston, Kathy Feldmeyer and Nancy McHugh. Thanks to all for your volunteer efforts in 1998. The "Trails" are a much better place because of your volunteer hours!!!

1999 will again prove to be a "energized year," Group rides are soon to begin, call Ed Berta at 810-750-9139 and Jane Hale at 810-232-1087. The Adopt-a-Road Program will kick-off again this spring, call Jeff Feldmeyer at

(Chatter continued next page)

(Chatter continued)

248-889-1867. And Trail Improvements will take place on the "East Loop" Gruber's Grinder." Contact Paul Gruber at 248-922-0018. If any Point Series Racers have questions regarding the upcoming year, you can contact Don Jurvelin at 810-658-2390. Have a great riding season and I hope to see you at Holdridge Lakes. Thanks, Rick Jerrell 248-634-7691 rjerrell@tir.com.

Southwestern Chapter

By Mike Needham

The Southwest chapter looks forward this season to hosting the Fort Custer Stampede and Dirtstock as well as assisting on other events held in our area. Ambitious projects in the past included bringing water to the trail head at Fort Custer. Enlarging and stabilizing the trail head parking lot. Building a storage shed for our six wheel mule and building or repairing bridges. Building new trail is a cinch compared to these types of projects.

One frequently asked question we get from our trail users is "Are there any plans to add more trail?" The answer is,

not now. While only 20% of the Fort Custer Rec Area is used for multi use trails, expansion seems the likely direction to go. It (expansion) is not! Expansion would stretch our limited volunteer pool to the breaking point. Expansion would make finding lost persons much more difficult. Expansion would ruin other recreational activities requiring a more wilderness setting. Enjoy the trails we have today on foot or bicycle on skis or snowshoes. Enjoy the unspoiled forests the way nature intended on foot without trail, your wit against nature. You will be wet, scratched, and bitten and better woodsman for it.

So what do we hard working volunteers of the great southwest plan to do this season? Ride, explore other state trails, invigorate our thinking with the ideas of others, perfect our own trails.

What can you do help? Volunteer or participate in Chapter or MMBA activities. It takes about 60 volunteers to run the Stampede. It takes about 500 participants to make an event successful. Benevolent projects like the restoration of the Beich House on Grand Island and educational grants are funded by the sponsors and participants of the

Stampede. Come have a good time, Michigan's trails will benefit even more than your hear, lungs, and waistline. Ride Smart Mike Needham

Western Chapter

By Paul Smith

Are you upset about Yankee Springs closing last fall for deer hunting? Is it unfair they chose to close the trail, the only trail closed in the state for firearm season? Yes it is! Did the fact there have not been any hunter/biker injuries in the past have any bearing on this decision? Probably not. Several hunters have died from falling from a tree stand, something new this year, but I doubt the DNR will stop the tree stand option for 1999. Of course, there has yet to be a hunter/biker related fatality.

Our annual MMBA Point Series kickoff race for 1999 is going to be held at Yankee Springs again. Continually the #1 event of the Point series race, 1999 is shaping up to be no different. John Haffenden and Tailwind Promotions have both done fantastic jobs ensuring the top race venue in Michigan. As always, volunteers are needed for the race. The pre-race

(Chatter continued next page)



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(Chatter continued)

workday is scheduled for March 28, 1998 (other dates will be added if needed) and the Point Series Race is scheduled for April 18, 1998. If you are interested in helping out, please call John Haffenden at 616-364-9344. Please remember, this is the one and only large scale fund raising event the Western Chapter does, please help out if you can.

We'd like to thank all the shops who have supported us this past year. Without their help, be it on workdays or by just donating money, we would not be where we are today. **North Kent Schwinn** printed up applications for us for 1998 and also helped out on a trail day. **Alger Schwinn** again helped out on a work day. The **Speed Merchants** have agreed to print up applications for us for 1999. We can't forget **Village Bike Shop**, who has printed them up in years past as well. **Our chapter leads the state in bike shop members, and we would like to thank them all for the support in 1998, and look forward to continued partnership in 1999.**

Ed. note/and as a western chapter member: Welcome to our new MMBA Western Chapter President, Marty Jones. I promise to try my best and not lose any of your articles for the BRB like I did Paul's above. We'll look forward to your words of wisdom this spring!

Mid-state Chapter

By Lisa Lazaroff

The Mid-state chapter is gearing up for another busy year. Look for the chapter calendar on the MMBA website and here in this issue of the BRB. Soon, you will also be receiving a new chapter newsletter.

We're kicking off the year with a Mountain Kids event in Jackson on May 1 and could use some warm bodies to volunteer. If interested in helping out, contact Lisa at: 517- 782-9093.

Congratulations to the chapter First Across the Finish Line winners. The chapter volunteer of the year is **Jeff Snyder**-chosen because of his dedication to Heritage Park in Adrian in the form of lots of sweat (and I don't doubt blood and tears too). He logged in over 160 hours of labor in building and maintaining the trail in Adrian. Thanks Jeff!

Other winners recognized: **Doug Cornell, Dennis Hansen, Randy**

Blankenship, Todd Mercer, Gregg Iddings, Shane Clark, Sonya Leibowitz, Don Grace. Don't Forget to keep track of your volunteer hours for 1999 so you can win, too! Send hours to Lisa Lazaroff, 1711 Third St. Jackson, MI 49203

We will also be having a chapter meeting, time and date to be arranged. Look for details in the chapter newsletter and on the web.

Dates:

Saturday May 1

Mountain Kids 11am

Ella Sharp-Jackson

Wednesday, May 12

Chapter ride 7pm

Burchfield Park-Lansing

Saturday, May 15

Work Day 10am

Heritage Park - Adrian

Saturday, May 22

Race Heritage Park 10am

Heritage Park Adrian

Saturday, June 5

Work day 10 am

Ionia Recreation Area-Ionia

Wednesday, June 9

Chapter ride 7pm

Heritage Park-Adrian

Saturday, June 26

Chapter ride 10am

Ella Sharp-Jackson

Wednesday, July 14

Chapter ride 7pm

Burchfield Park-Lansing

Saturday, August 7

Fundays 11am

Heritage Park-Adrian

Saturday, August 21

Mountain Kids 11am

Burchfield Park- Lansing

Wednesday, August 25

Chapter Ride 7pm

Ramsdale Park-Adrian

Wednesday, Sept. 1

Chapter ride 7pm

Ella Sharp-Jackson

Saturday, Sept. 11

Chapter ride 11am

Sleepy Hollow Laingsburg

All dates and times subject to change/

Check with chapter president for more info
517-782-9093/email loonsong@voyager.net

Check handbook for complete list of
trail activities for all chapters in 1999.

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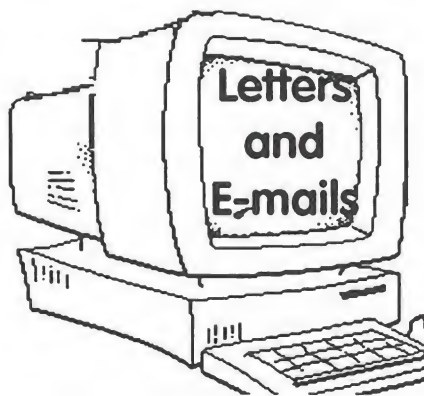
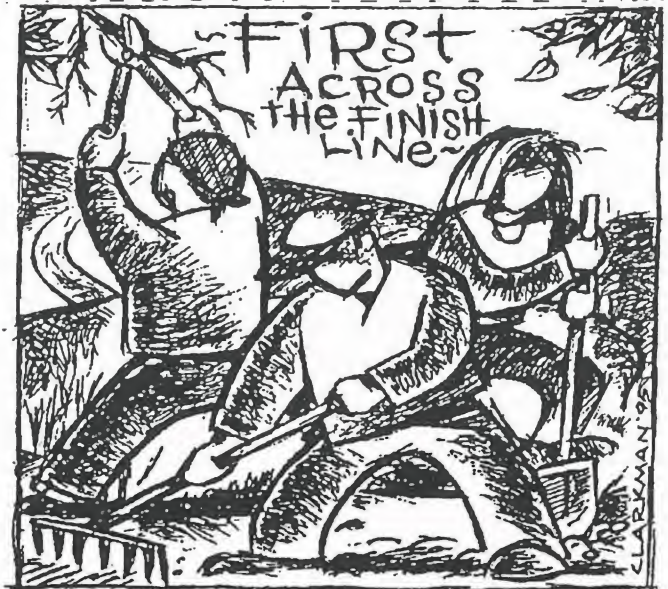


Wilderness Trail Bikes is proud to be a sponsor of the 1999 MMBA First Across The Finish Line Trail Maintenance Program, and recognizes the hard work and dedication that volunteers put in to keep trails open and to build new trails. Congratulations are in order to all trail workers who did their part and helped to make mountain biking better for everyone.

You

are the first ones out to clear and repair the trails after winter is over. You are the first ones to lend a friendly hand and to reach out to other trail users. You are the ones that brave the bugs and the mud and the heat to make sure that the trails are ready to ride. Day after day. Year after year. Wilderness Trail Bikes salutes you. You do the sport justice!"

The the individual from each chapter with the most FAFL hours will get over \$100 in schwag from WTB at the 2000 Annual Meeting.



Hi Dwain and the MMBA,

Thank you very much for sending the reading material about Michigan trails. I've decided to stay 10 days rather than seven and I'm taking my bike with. All because you said one ride won't be enough. Thank you for letting me see the light. A vacation wouldn't be a vacation without my bike. I plan on sharing the info with the Mountain Bike Association of Arizona. I hope you don't mind. The MBAA focuses so much on the racing aspect of biking and you guys focus on trail work, fun rides and racing. You have a great balance I wish the MBAA had. Thanks again, and maybe I'll see you on a trail or two this coming June.

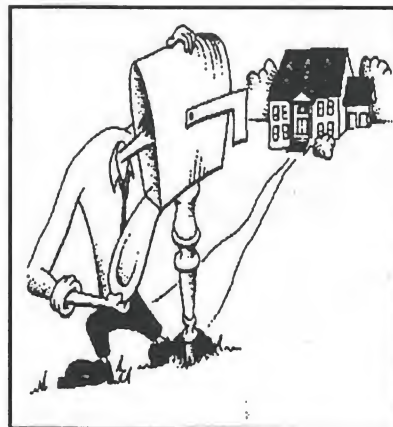
Best Regards,
Rita Randolph

PS. One added note-I was able to read more of the manual since I contacted you earlier today and it is very complete for everyone, even an ex-Michigander (since 1981). I especially like the many funrides you guys have. Here in Arizona we don't have chapters so there is only one ride per month statewide. It requires way too much driving for me.

Thanks again. Rita

Holdridge Lakes Trail Rocks!!!

I just wanted to say "Great Job!" to Paul Gruber and volunteering members of the Holly/Flint chapter for designing and building such a kickass trail in the Holly Recreation Area. My good riding buddy and I rode the new East Loop this past fall and absolutely loved the technically challenging terrain. It never lets up and requires the riders full attention at all times or else you could become one with Nature if you know what I mean. I especially enjoyed the many log hills both small and large, the sections of baby head size rocks and the shoulder width tree. The only trail I could compare it to in aspects of



technical difficulty is Highland. Three hours is a good estimate to complete this trail which we were skeptical of until we actually rode it. Tommy endoed a couple of times and pinch flattened and I

broke off half the cage on my left pedal at the half way point. This trail is unforgiving of mistakes!! We finished the trail totally spent and completely satisfied, wanting to ride it again. (Sounds like sex, doesn't it?)

You guys have done an excellent job building another Michigan gem and you can tell that many hours were invested to complete this trail. We can't wait to go back and ride "Gruber's Grind" again and check out the other smaller loop as well.

Enjoy the ride,

Gary Anderson

MMBA Potawatomi Chapter.

P.S. We did return in the fall and rode Gruber's and the west loop was a blast as well!!! Thanks again.



Info from the 1999 MMBA CPS Director Joseph Yannie

Welcome to the 1999 Championship Point Series. I would like to wish everyone good luck in the upcoming mountain bike race season. As the 1999 racing season quickly approaches, I would like everyone to take a moment to read the new rules for the 1999

Championship Point Series. Those of you who are familiar with the rules will notice a few changes, and those who are not familiar with the rules, this note will discuss where to find those changes.

First, the way points are tabulated has changed. Participants will no longer be given points based on where they finished among CPS participants. Participants will be awarded points based on their actual finish in the race, among all participants.

Second, and along the same theme, participants will receive bonus points for every participant that they finish in front of up to a maximum of twenty points.

Third, participants will need to enter a minimum five races in order to receive an award.

Fourth, all disputes regarding tabulated points need to be brought to the attention of the Competition Director by 12/15.

These changes will hopefully help expedite the point tabulation. The Competition Committee hopes to have the race results on the web as quickly as possible and at the next Point Series race. I will do my best to ensure that

this is accomplished.

What does the Competition Committee have on its agenda for 1999 meetings? When you receive this installment of the BRB, the Competition Committee will already have been together twice. We are currently discussing advertising for the CPS, you will see a survey at several of the races. We are working on a marketing plan. We're doing this so we can make the best point series in Michigan even better. Do not know who your Competition Committee Representative is? Call your Chapter President, or look in the MMBA Official Handbook. Questions regarding the CPS, or activities of the Competition Committee should be directed to your Chapter Representative, or to the Competition Director. We are here to serve as a conduit of information to and from the Chapters so we can communicate with all the members of the MMBA.

Finally, I hope to see all of you at some time this year. Come by the CPS booth to say hello.

Joe Yannie
Competition Director

Vermont:



The Ride

by Dennis Hansen*

Every time I leave Michigan to try out trails in another state I never know what to expect. The pictures that are commonly shown of the state of the quaint town square with the church and town hall are all throughout Vermont. The rolling (and steeper) hills, colorful broad valleys, picturesque scenes of dairy farms and maple syrup making huts and isolated mountain top lakes were all through our trip. Even though I made many phone calls and spent many hours researching the trip there are always surprises on trips like this. What we were surprised about was what we enjoyed the most about mountain biking in Vermont.

Though there are nearly a hundred mountain biking opportunities that are

listed in the two main mountain biking books (see Vermont Trail Guides below) we enjoyed riding the back roads the most. The varied terrain, winding nature of the roads, small villages along the way, spectacular valley and mountain vistas, mostly gravel or dirt surfaces, a wide variety from good gravel to nearly overgrown and impassable by vehicles and very little traffic all made the rides most rewarding. We also liked the idea that we were able to cover a lot more terrain and see a lot more of the state by riding the back roads. Although those single track trails we did experience were fun, they were really no better (and sometimes not nearly as interesting or rideable) then what we have in Michigan.

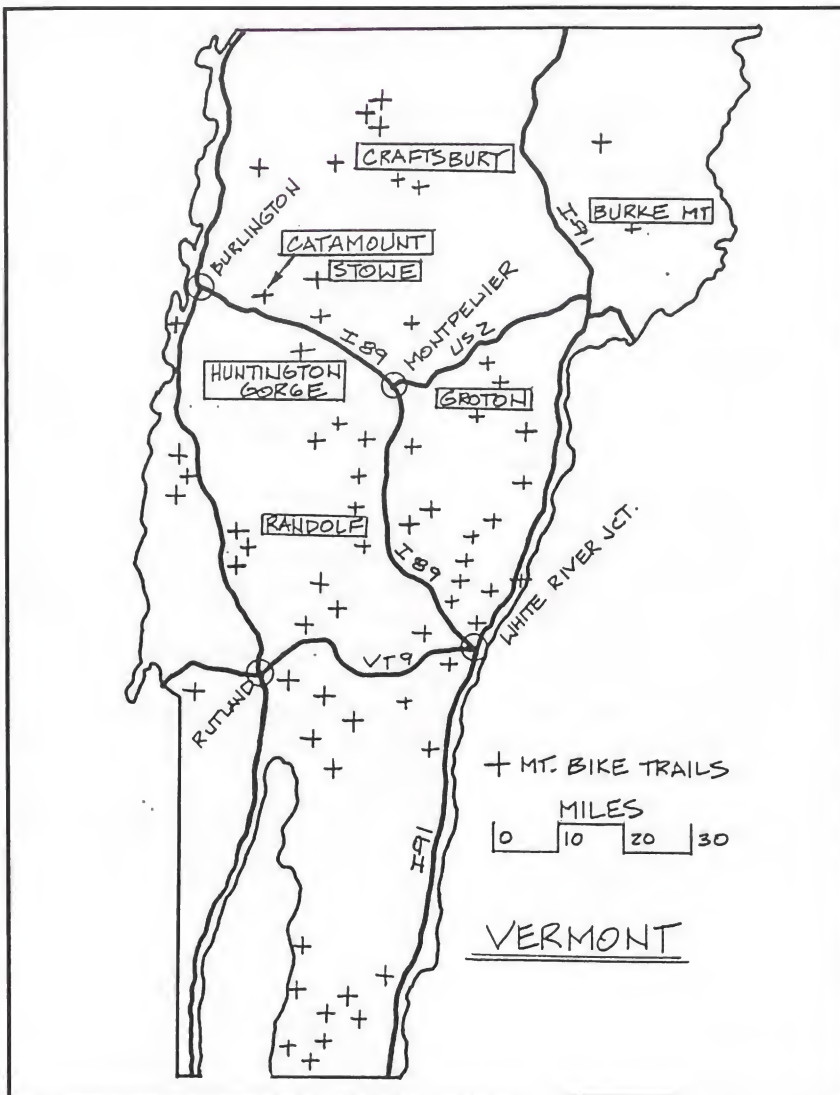
Similar to West Virginia, Vermont riders are not widely organized nor of sufficient numbers to make an impact on the single track mountain bike trails throughout the state. There are local organizations often associated with a bike shop, but they only work on a few trails around that local bike shop's location. The state wide organization called the Vermont Mountain Bike

Advocates (VMBA) was founded in 1997 but few I talked to around the state knew much about the organization. If you're interested in contacting them, they can be reached at POB 563, Waterbury, VT 05676. Because Vermont is a small state, (Vermont can fit into an area from the Ohio state line to the top of the thumb, and getting around the state was easy.

In the 9 days of riding, we covered many routes in the north half of the state. In Michigan, the travel time alone between the locations would have taken up half that time. With this flexibility, we were able to try out a wide variety of rides. Unfortunately, we ran out of week before we ran out of places to ride.

To understand mountain biking in Vermont it's necessary to understand how Vermont developed. Agriculture and forest products have played a major role in the development of the Vermont road systems. From as early as the mid 1700's logging has been a major industry. By the mid 1800's there were 1,000 sawmills and by 1880, Burlington

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had become the third largest lumber port in the world! (Fortunately, now there are very strict logging restrictions that have allowed Vermont to regrow its forest to what they are today.) Along with dairy farming (peaked in the mid 1900's with 13,000 farms) and sheep farming (which peaked in the mid 1800's with 1,700,000 sheep). All this farming required an extensive road system.

These roads are divided into four classifications (Class 1 through Class 4). Class 1 are all paved main trunk lines and federal roads, Class 2 are primary paved and gravel roads maintained by their respective communities, Class 3 are secondary gravel roads, also maintained by the local jurisdictions and Class 4 are roads no longer maintained by the local road commissions. For the most part we found the Class 3 and Class 4 roads provided the most enjoyable rides. However, in some parts of the state we found the guide books

published as late as 1998 to be already out of date. That is because there was a very serious rain storm in Vermont in the fall of 1997 that severely eroded some of the Class 4 roads. This was very evident to us, especially in the Northfield Mountains southwest of Montpelier. Ride Sampler -See the Trip Planner for references listed by (XX).

Except for the trails that are contained completely within a single property ownership, most of the rides in Vermont are a combination of various trails on public rights-of-way. Because of that, they are not signed like those commonly found in Michigan. Route descriptions in books and maps are by mileages and landmarks. Map reading skills are essential. Also being able to figure how to get back where you came from when you have a change in plans is required. Always carry detailed maps of the area that you are riding.

DAY 1 - Mount Mansfield - Ride

48, in Carter's book (1) also listed as Nebraska Valley in (3) Using both resources we designed our own tour on our first day. We rode out from our motel in Stowe onto a part of the winding 5 mile long paved and very picturesque Stowe Recreational Path. Then up Luce Hill Road where we started climbing 200 vertical feet to the Trapp Hill Rd. We passed the famous Trapp Family Lodge, made famous by the Sound of Music, and the pavement stopped. Then right onto Sugarbush Lane where the first Class 4 road began as the ruts and mud attested. It's common to have these roads gated, as this one was, to control off road vehicles and livestock.

Over the gate went the bikes and around the gate went the riders. Continuing, the road immediately improved with smooth gravel and we picked up an even better improved gravel road at a Tee intersection a half mile later. This was the Nebraska Valley Rd that lead us to the Lake Mansfield Trout Club. This privately owned fishing club was one of the most picturesque lodges we saw our entire week. Also, one hiking trail starts here and connects with the Vermont Long Trail (sorry hiking only) about 2 1/2 miles and 300 feet more of vertical elevation to the west. After the Trout Club, we backtracked 1 mile and turned left up Old Country Rd, which was aptly named.

After passing some very nice homes, the road deteriorated to nothing more than an eroded, wet, rocky wide space in the woods. Little did we know that these kind of fast changing trail conditions were the norm in Vermont. We began to notice cross country ski trail intersection maps for the Trapp Family Lodge. We were on the only section of ski trail that is open to mountain biking in the Trapp/Topnotch ski trail systems. The difficult climb continued (nearly 200' in 2 miles) and seemed more difficult because of the wet rocks and flowing water coming toward us. Once at the top, the downhill was not difficult but a little scary because the rocks were still wet and the water was still flowing.

Passing around another gate (to keep off road vehicles off the ski trails) the "road" improved immediately since we began to pass several homes. At the next intersection we took a left turn on the

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Haul Rd and were treated to a picturesque Vermont valley for several miles. Of course, we had to climb another 200' vertical along the way, but at least there weren't any wet rocks and flowing water. The trail continued onto a short but challenging nearly 2 mile single track loop called Bruce Trail, a favorite of Randy's. Our route took us onto Burt Trail finally, downhill for another 2 1/2 miles to paved Vermont 108. Following that for only about 1 1/2 miles we picked up the north end of the Stowe Recreational Path. Two miles later we were back to our motel. The ride took us 24 miles through some wonderful Vermont countryside. Considering it was the first of 6 more full days of riding, we decided to call it a day.

DAY 2 - Northeastern Kingdom and Burke Mountain - Not that we needed to leave the Stowe area (we could have spent the entire week in the Stowe area and not ride all the trails available), the purpose of the trip was to get as much of an overall appreciation for the state as we could in 6 days of riding. We headed off to East Burke and Burke Mountain ski area. We were expecting to ride the Kirby Mt loop. Since it was one of the rides that was listed in both guide books, it had to be good.

When we checked in at the local bike shop, East Burke Sports, they suggested a new trail system that was just developed called the Kingdom Trails. This is a totally privately developed network of over 50 miles of single track, cross country ski trails and logging roads containing every kind of terrain and landscape possible and it is completely on private land! We encountered hills, valleys, logging operations, beaver dams, streams, mud, open meadow, forests of maple, oak and evergreens, beautiful scenery and everything in between.

The trails connect two Vermont country inns, Burke Mountain alpine and nordic trails, East Burke Sports and the village of East Burke. In addition to the outstanding bike/outdoor store, East Burke also has several restaurants, a country store and the Trout River Brewing Co., a micro brewery. Unfortunately, we ran out of day before we ran out of trails to try.

Day 3 - Huntington Gorge - This

day was our rain day. Therefore Kate Carter's (1) country road ride #33 was selected. It was an 18 mile loop, half uphill and half downhill on good gravel roads. Like all the gravel roads rides, we seldom saw vehicle traffic. The ride was pleasant, if uneventful, except for the spectacular view of Huntington Gorge and a stop at the Huntington Country store for some ice cream. Considering it was wet all day, this 18 miles was more than enough.

DAY 4 - Randolph - The area surrounding Randolph, located close to the center of the state, contains hundreds of miles of designated rides. The day we spent at Randolph didn't even scratch the surface of the riding opportunities that are available. In addition to the trails, Randolph is the site of the Vermont Fat Tire Festival each fall. Without a doubt Randolph has the most elaborate bike shop I have ever seen. When in the town, you will not be able to miss it. That could be one of the reasons why the former owner went bankrupt. After checking in with the new owners of the Bike Express, we chose to explore the Maricastle Trails on the outskirts of Randolph followed by ride #2 from the Randolph Vermont Mountain Bike Trails map (4).

The Maricastle Trails were a network of single track trails that covered a 250' high hill on the edge of town. Although the trails were extensive and challenging, the trails were almost completely in a dense forest which did not allow us to see any of the scenery of Vermont and the trail sign system was beyond comprehension. We soon found ourselves lost. As a result we ended up in a farm field doing some real cross country riding. The nice thing about Vermont was that it was impossible to stay lost for long. With all the roads throughout the state, before long there would be a way back to where you started. This was no exception.

The Maple Ridge Sheep Farm Loop ride was one loop where even getting local information did not help. As it turned out this loop was one of the victims of the flood. It was supposed to be a Class 4 road loop of a 4 mile climb, a few miles on a ridge top and a 4 mile downhill. As it turned out both the uphill and downhill sections were completely washed out with flowing water going down the completely

eroded former road bed. Slab bed rock, loose rock and gravel were the order of the day. Needless to say, after several hours of "hike-a-bike" up Cram Hill Rd, we found some Class 3 roads which resulted in a very scenic hill top ridge loop ride of the Vermont country side. After a very full day of riding, as the sun was setting we found our way back to West Brookfield where we began our ride.

DAY 5 - Craftsbury and Catamount - Craftsbury started as a ski touring and outdoor center which it continues today as its main business. It added mountain and road biking to expand its business. Unfortunately for us, the unseasonably wet weather made their single track trails unusable. As a back up plan, they had mapped several Class 3 road rides, one of which we selected. The hilly terrain, more wonderful Vermont countryside and seldom used roads made our cool morning ride very enjoyable.

With the afternoon remaining, we decided to try out Catamount Family Outdoor Center (879-6001) on the outskirts of Burlington. Privately operated, this network of single and double track trails are used for both cross-country skiing and running. Except for a few technical sections, we were a little disappointed, considering everything I read about the facility. It was a fun ride spending several hours on the trails, but we had expected more. Unfortunately, the day was almost over, so we headed back to Stowe.

DAY 6 - Groton State Forest - On our last day of riding we choose the Groton State Forest and Ride #61 from Carter's book (1). This 24 mile loop included a little of everything from rail-trail to Class 4 roads. After our experience earlier in the week with some other Class 4 roads, we were a little apprehensive since the class 4 roads would be encountered 3/4 the way through the ride and in the most isolated section. But as luck would have it, this ride was one of our most pleasurable. The scenery was spectacular with rocky outcrops (that reminded us of the terrain at Stokely Creek Ski Touring Center in Canada), wonderful rail-trail, picturesque Class 3 roads and Class 4 roads that were actually very rideable single track trails. The trail started out on the rail-trail with a gradual climb for nearly

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8 miles, then the grade increased in the Class 3 road portion and then got even steeper in the Class 4 section over the mountain top. It was all worth it as we descended in a single long downhill several miles long before returning to the rail-trail and a 2 mile backtrack. What a wonderful way to finish off a week of mountain biking in Vermont. **TRIP PLANNER**

Guides - The ride sampler refers to various references below by number in (X) **Books** - I recommend only the following two books since they are recently published, well done and comprehensive. Since many of the rides listed in both books do not overlap, buying both books is not a waste of money, but rather they complement each other.

(1) **Vermont - A Guide To The Classic Trails** by Kate Carter, 1998. ISBN 0-89732-267-3 Kate is a knowledgeable local rider and author. The book is well written and accurate. Covers 61 rides equally spread throughout the state.

(2) **Mountain Bike America - Vermont** by Jen Mynter, 1997 ISBN 1-882997-07-7. Another local rider with an excellent book. Covers 34 rides/trail systems throughout the state, but is more concentrated in central Vermont. More flash with 3D topo maps and course elevation diagrams for each ride. These two guide books also refer to other mountain bike resources and more trails and map sources. I strongly recommend buying these well in advance of your trip to give you sufficient opportunity to acquire additional information on the area of the state that interests you. **Trail Map Guides** - Both are a road map format with trail descriptions. Published by Map Adventures, 802-253-7489 (published in Stowe).

(3) **Northern Vermont Mountain Biking Map and Guide** - Mt. Mansfield and Stowe Area - 32 mountain bike trails and road rides. Great for around Stowe. Used for our first ride of the week.

(4) **Randolph Vermont Mountain Biking Trails** - 240 miles of Mapped Trails. We used these two maps extensively. They were both excellent comprehensive trail maps on a topo-

graphic base and trail descriptions. There may be more maps for other parts of the state, but since we didn't need them for the trip, I didn't seek them out.

Road Book Maps - Although the official state highway map is good, to save time driving and to keep from getting lost I recommend one of the following: **Vermont Atlas and Gazetteer** - Available in Michigan at better bookstores, or call 207-865-4171. This is the map book series that is used as the location reference for my book, the **Trail Atlas of Michigan**. **Vermont Road Atlas and Guide** - 802-860-2886, I have not seen this one in Michigan.

Bike Shops - all 802 area code Many throughout the state. Contact them to get the most current information for the local area. Most carry a full line of "quite sport" equipment **Burke Mountain and Northeast Kingdom** - East Burke Sports, 626-3215 **Randolph** - Express Bicycles - Montpelier - Onion River Sports 229-9408 **Stowe** - Mountain Bike Shop 253-7919, Action Outfitters 253-7975, AJ's Ski and Sport 253-4593 **Burlington** - Earl's Cyclery 846-9197, Climb High 985-5056

Mountain Bike Areas **Catamount Family Center**, Williston 879-6001 **Craftsbury Nordic Ski Center**, 1-800-729-7751

Other Resources - State of Vermont - 800-837-6668 for the official Government maps tourism literature **WEB Pages** - Official state government - www.state.vt.us Other privately sponsored web page - www.vermont.com **Dennis Hansen** is a charter member and former board member of the **Michigan Mountain Biking Association (MMBA)**. He is an active citizen volunteer with the Department of Natural Resources related to non-motorized trails. **Dennis** has been writing books on Michigan's non-motorized trails for more than 20 years. The Second Edition of his most recent book, the **Trail Atlas of Michigan** is now available. It contains more than 250 trails open to mountain biking. The 656 page book contains over 600 trails for mountain biking, hiking, cross country skiing and nature observation. Each trail entry contains at least one trail map and considerable detailed information about each trail. Available at bookstores, bike shops and by mail order for \$31.75 (\$29.95 plus \$1.80 tax. Postage is free) from Hansen Publish-

ing Company, 1801 Birchwood Drive, Okemos, MI 48864. This article is reprint with permission of the author from **Michigan Cyclist Magazine**.

THE CLASSIFIED SECTION

4 bike locking rack that fits a 1 1/4" hitch on an Aerostar. Can be modified to fit any vehicle. Heavy duty \$50 517-349-4683

Velocipede Peddler in Lansing had a Large 1999 Fisher Supercaliber stolen on Saturday during a test ride. The serial number is wtu2301692B. Any help in finding it would be appreciated. There are only a handful of these bikes in Michigan.

Contact **Brett Weiler**
Fisher/LeMond/Bontrager Cycles Michigan-NW Ohio
800-688-4324 ext 2914
(Posted March 15)

Trails For Tomorrow Campaign Continues:

This past fall in an effort to reduce the effects of budget challenges the MMBA launched our Trails for Tomorrow Campaign. Response has been committed and far reaching. Donations to insure the continued health and effectiveness of the MMBA continue. Here are few names that were inadvertently left off the list in the last issue of the BRB or have just sent in their donations. Thank you all who supported the MMBA Trails for Tomorrow Campaign. Continuing donations are welcome.

Angie Donaldson	David Ballou
Ben Stapish	The Bozynski's
Curt Snook	Craig Hume
Marty & Janet Jones	
Dwain Abramowski	



Hi Dwain, Jason, Tim & Karey,

Thanks so much for your hospitality and support as I attended your 1999 Annual Meeting and Awards Celebration. My visit was short, but very sweet.

The MMBA is a very impressive and effective organization. The energy at the annual meeting was phenomenal. Your chapter setup is clearly working. Your schwag is outstanding. You blend racing, trail work, advocacy and fun in so many innovative ways.

I enjoyed it all: Saturday night dinner, the ride, the meeting—even the trip south to the airport in a snowstorm.

I know we'll all be talking frequently in the coming months. But for now, congratulations. And again, Thanks for making my participation so much fun.

Tim Blumenthal, Executive Director IMBA

IMBA Launches New Website & Other News

IMBA, the International Mountain Bicycling Association, is launching a major revamp of its website in partnership with the prominent online communications company, GreatOutdoors.com. The web address for IMBA's site remains www.imba.com.

The site is divided into several main sections: **About IMBA** — info about the organization and how to join. **Trail Care** — the site for the Subaru/IMBA Trail Care Crews, plus tips on building and maintaining trails. **Info & Action** — news, action alerts, opinions, calendar, library, and complete downloadable editions of past and

IMBA Trail Care Crew *Returns To Michigan July 29 Through August 2.

Look for upcoming information on trail care dates, Land Management Seminars & other activities in the next issue of the BRB or contact your chapter president!

**tentative (photo by Lisa Lazaroff)*



current issues of the association's newsletter, **IMBA Trail News**.

Contacts — IMBA's clubs, dealers, state reps, corporate sponsors, staff and board. **On Patrol** — the site for the National Mountain Bike Patrol, a partnership with the National Off Road Bicycle Association. **Cool Stuff** — IMBA merchandise and publications Also new at IMBA

IMBA Epics is a partnership of IMBA, Patagonia and RockShox that's designed to promote exceptional, epic mountain bike rides coast to coast (and beyond). Four IMBA Epic rides—all of them long and challenging—have been selected for '99. Locations: Downieville, California; Fruita, Colorado; State College, Pennsylvania; and Slatyfork, West Virginia. Each Epic ride location will be highlighted by an Epic Celebration Ride that will include

mountain bike racing greats, IMBA honchos, local land managers and 40-45 lucky individual riders. Patagonia and RockShox will provide their newest products for participants to demo. Those who miss the celebration rides can pedal the Epics when their schedules and trail conditions permit.

IMBA and SoBe-IMBA is partnering with the South Beach Beverage Company of Norwalk, Connecticut, to promote SoBe drinks and support crucial trail access efforts. SoBe is putting IMBA's logo, web site address and phone number on several million bottles of SoBe Lizard Fuel, the company's new mountain bike drink. SoBe is underwriting a new IMBA grants fund that will award two \$1,000 grants to top-priority access initiatives. SoBe is also providing Lizard Fuel to power IMBA club trailwork sessions.

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Subaru/IMBA Trail Care Crew Two - Subaru/IMBA Trail Care Crews are again traveling North America, leading trailwork projects, meeting with land managers, working with IMBA affiliated clubs and acting as ambassadors for the sport of mountain biking. Jan and Mike Riter of Conyers, Georgia, have started their third year as Trail Care Crew No 1. Joey Klein and Kathy Summers of Montezuma, Colorado, are the new Trail Care Crew No. 2. The Ritters have played key roles in maintaining the '96 Olympic mountain bike course. Klein and Summers are both renowned endurance mountain bike racers and experienced trailworkers.

RockShox & IMBA - For the fourth consecutive year, RockShox is again IMBA's No. 1 bike industry corporate supporter. In addition to supporting general IMBA programs, RockShox backs IMBA Club Assistance Grants, the distribution of RockShox McLeods to IMBA affiliated clubs, and (with Patagonia) the new IMBA Epics program.

New IMBA Web Site - IMBA's new Web site (www.imba.com) debuted March 19th. IMBA's new site is part of **GreatOutdoors.com**, the outdoor sports and recreation site developed by Cox Communications in partnership with the Outdoor Life Network. GreatOutdoors.com has become an IMBA corporate backer.

IMBA Snapshot: 13,500 individual members...300 affiliated clubs...105 corporate supporters...staff of 14, plus 2 interns...43 volunteer U.S. state reps. (your MMBA executive director, Dwain Abramowski is your IMBA representative for Michigan.)

Programs included:

Subaru/IMBA Trail Care Crew
National Mountain Bike Patrol
Advocacy staff focuses on access issues, concentrates on urban trails, National Park Service Initiatives, IMBA Epics, IMBA/RockShox cash & tool grants, IMBA/SoBe grants, new IMBA office in Switzerland, and Bikes Fly Free/Dirt Discounts member benefits.

You cannot complete
what you
have not begun.

Important Notice For Users of the Huron Manistee National Forest - Big M Ski Area Mountain Biking Trails/ North Country Trail Users...

Beginning May 15, 1999, a Huron Manistee National Forest Vehicle Pass will be required for vehicles parked at certain designated sites, including some river access sites, dispersed camping areas, and non-motorized trailheads. **Users have the option of obtaining one of the following: \$3 daily pass, \$5 weekly pass, or a \$20 annual pass.** Golden Age Passport holders will receive a 50% discount on annual passes from Forest Service offices. For individuals unable to afford the fee, arrangements can be made to earn an annual pass by volunteering their time through the Forest Service Volunteer Program.

Based on public comments, the Forest modified the original proposal by dropping the \$2 fee for watercraft permit on the Pine and Pere Marquette Rivers and reducing the number of sites requiring a vehicle pass.

The Huron-Manistee National Forest will be developing a list of priority projects to reinvest the funds collected. We are interested in any ideas you may have for improvement of our services and facilities. As we initiate this Recreation Fee Demonstration project, we will be evaluating customer satisfaction. As this feedback is received, we will consider changes to help increase

the support for the project and its effectiveness.

If you have any questions or comments about the project, please contact Rose Ingram Recreation program Manager at (616)775-2421 or your local district office:

John Hojnowski/Manistee

(616)723-2211

John Huschke/Baldwin (616)745-4631

Sandy Caveney/Mio (517)826-3252

Nick Schmelter/Oscoda (517)739 0728

Recreation Fee

Demonstration Projects

North Country National Scenic Trailheads-

Marilla

Udell

Bowman Lake

M-20 Trailheads

Additional Trailheads-

Big M

Loda Lake Wildflower
Sanctuary,

Bowman Lake

Hoist Lake East & West
Reid Lake

Corsair

Wakeley Lake



The MMBA Is Seeking A Marketing Director

The MMBA is currently working with local, regional and national industry and organization leaders on projects for the 1999-2000 year and could use the help of an individual to share the work load. If you would like to help the MMBA secure the resources needed to continue our national leadership role in advocacy and amateur sports development please contact the MMBA office at: 616-785-0120 or Jason Aric Jones, MMBA President at 734-426-7581

STICKS & STONES

"Michigan Rules" was the title of a recent VeloNews

article (Volume 28/March 1, 1999) written by VeloNews editor Bryan Jew.

Last September Bryan spent a week in Michigan traveling around the state getting to know the Michigan Mountain Biking Association (MMBA). From Traverse City down to Battle Creek across to Detroit, Bryan met with MMBA members, leadership and rode dozens of miles of trail. The result was a feature story which is a part of "The State Of American Cycling: Part 1" in VeloNews.

The MMBA thanks VeloNews for coming out to Michigan (From Boulder Co.) and spending some time to get to know the MMBA and its many programs. The MMBA extends an offer to any other national biking publications to come and join us for a week for there are many other sides of the MMBA yet to be discovered (The Mountain Kids Program, The Chapter connection, Dirtstock and others). Sharing the activities of local organizations (like the MMBA) with others is to

the benefit of all those who bicycle.
"Michigan Rules".

A Dogs Life:

What we can learn from the K9's we see out on the trail.

By the looks of most dogs out on the trail there is no place they would rather be, but remember when you're out riding with mans/ woman's best friend make sure that:

- Your dog does not interfere with other trail users (chasing, darting out in front of a moving bike, etc.).

- Your dog does his/her "business" off the trail and not in the trailhead parking lot.

- Your dog does not chase wildlife.

- Your dog does not trespass on private property.

- Your dog is under your control at all times.

On the other hand there are some very simple things we can all learn from our four legged friends out on the trail.

- When family members come home, drop what you're doing and run to greet them.

- Let others know when they have invaded your territory.

- Take naps: stretch before rising.

- Run, romp and play daily.

- Eat with gusto & concentration.

- Be loyal.

- Never pretend to be something you're not.

- If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.

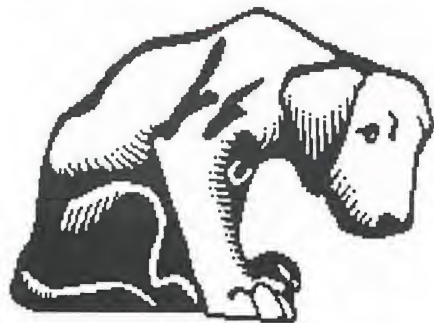
- When someone is having a bad day: be silent, sit close, and nuzzle him or her gently.

- Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.

- When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.

- No matter how often you're scolded, never pout. Run right back and make friends.

- Delight in the simple joys of a long walk (and don't forget to go for a car ride, stick your head out the window at 60 m.p.h. and grin from ear to ear!!!! How do those dogs do that?)



Michigan Mountain Biking Association

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